



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

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Local, State and Federal Agencies to Test Response To Simulated Chemical and Radiological Emergency in NOVEX 2006 Exercise

MOFFETT FIELD – Firefighters, law enforcement personnel and other first responders from more than two-dozen local, state and federal agencies will test their ability to conduct a coordinated response to a series of simulated chemical and radiological releases in Santa Clara County during “NOVEX 2006,” a free-play, full-scale exercise scheduled for Nov. 7 and 8 at Moffett Field.

“The ability of first responders from all levels of government, volunteer organizations and the private sector to work together is critical in emergencies, particularly those involving chemicals, radiological materials and other weapons of mass destruction,” said Henry Renteria, Director of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES). “NOVEX 2006 will provide participating agencies with the opportunity to test their skills in a realistic and challenging environment.”

During the exercise, facilitated by OES’s California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) first responders will face a challenges similar to those they would encounter in an actual emergency involving hazardous chemicals and radiological materials. They will have to identify the agents involved, set up perimeters to prevent the public from entering the “hot zone” and coming in contact with the hazardous substance, decontaminate mock victims who have been exposed to the simulated chemicals and radiological materials, determine the nature of injuries and prioritize treatment.

Because “NOVEX 2006” is designed to provide participants with a “real-world” experience, first responders involved in the exercise will wear protective clothing, drive emergency vehicles and utilize the equipment they would need in an actual emergency as they deal with the pyrotechnic devices and simulators featured in the exercise.

“People who live and work near Moffett Field should not be concerned if they see an influx of emergency responders in protective clothing, vehicles and equipment or some of the pyrotechnics,” said Renteria. “Because the chemical and radiological agents used in the exercise are simulated, there is no danger to responders and the general public.”

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